

THE
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A JOURNAL
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F. LEYPOLDT, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, 37 PARK ROW, NEW-YORK.

VOL. VIII. No. 24. NEW-YORK, December 11, 1875. WHOLE NO. 204.

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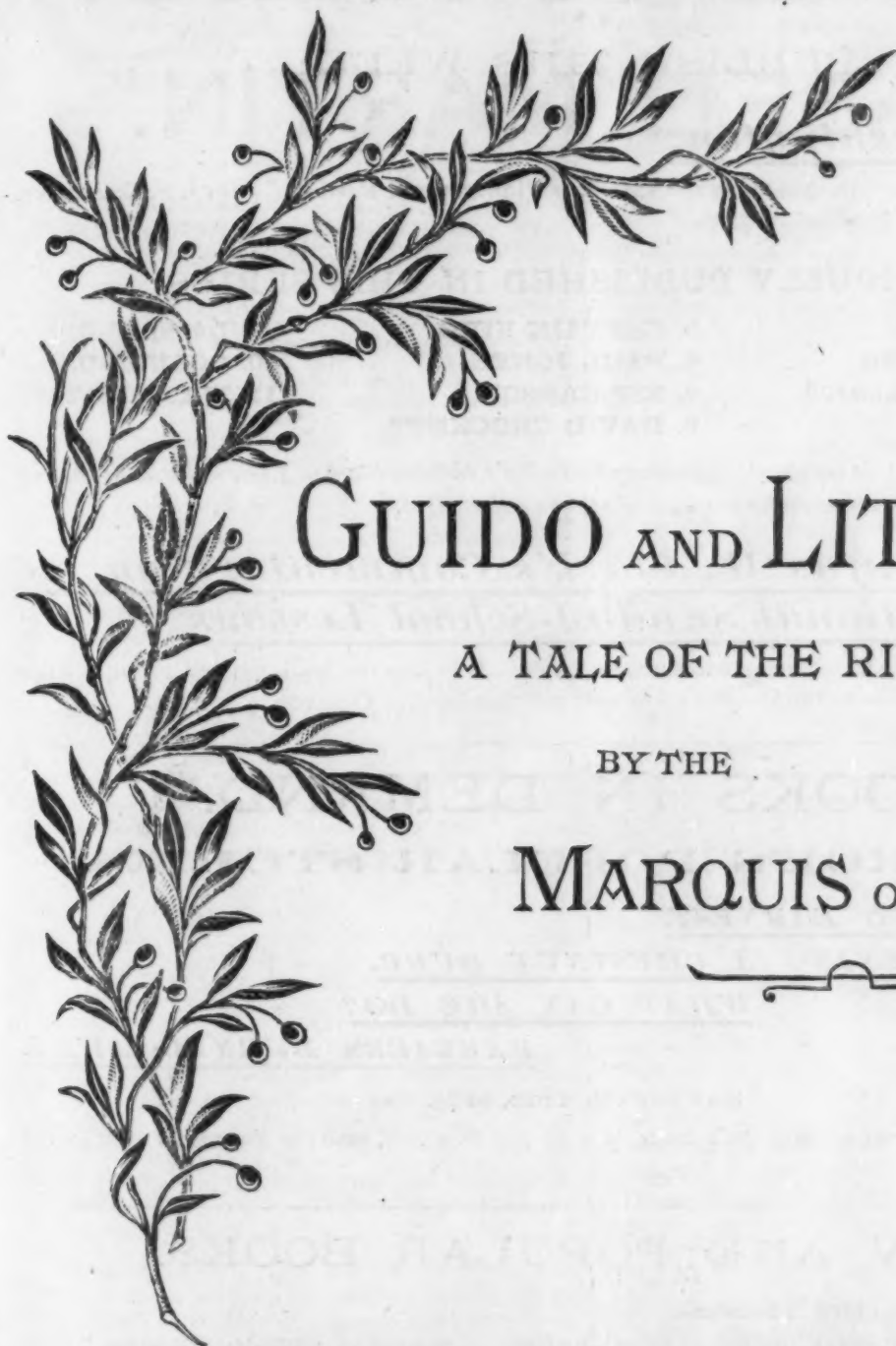
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NOTES IN SEASON.

OUR invoice of Whitaker's English Reference Catalogue was received from the Custom House on Wednesday, and no time has been lost in delivering copies to subscribers. We had expected our copies, for which we entered the order at the very start, weeks ago, and the delay is yet unexplained from the other side. Further orders will be filled at once, from the copies not yet applied for.

MESSRS. GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS will commence in January the publication of a new and complete edition of Charles Lever's works, to be called "The Harry Lorrequer Edition," and to be published in monthly volumes. "Harry Lorrequer" will lead. The new edition will range with the "Knebworth Edition" of Lord Lytton, and with the "Charles Dickens Edition" of Dickens. "Con Cregan," which was originally published without the *imprimatur* of Lever's name, will be included.

We learn from the *Literary World* that in her new novel, soon to be published by Lee & Shepard, "Sophie May" finds an utterly new field, diametrically different from the country life she has been wont to portray so faithfully. The new book is called "The Asbury Twins," and purports to be written by two twin sisters in alternate chapters. The story opens at their home in Maine; but most of the characters are presently followed to Paris, where the sisters attend school. The book will be very bright and lively.

MATTHEW ARNOLD's new volume, "God and the Bible," which is just ready at Macmillan & Co.'s, is likely to attract much attention. It deals with the criticisms upon his "Literature and the Bible," and accordingly reopens the discussion, which has already excited so lively an interest.

A CHRISTMAS story from Harriet Beecher Stowe can scarcely want for readers, and "Betty's Bright Idea," just ready at J. B. Ford & Co.'s, ought certainly to take.

THE success of such real art-books as "Mabel Martin" is an incentive to putting the best work into publishing. For the best work is sure to tell, as in this case.

AMONG the publications just ready at Hurd & Houghton's, John Burrough's "Winter Sunshine" will take rank as a charming book, with its vigorous sketches of nature as seen on foot, and its happy pictures of old England. Mr. Jarves' "Glimpse at the Art of Japan" presents an interesting exposition of the mysteries of Japanese pictures, with very many samples of that curious art. The letters of the Adamses and Prof. Greene's book on the Germans in the Revolution have a centennial flavor.

Mr. BANCROFT has carefully revised his History for the Centennial Edition to be commenced shortly by Little, Brown & Co., having obtained in forty years much valuable new material, and having devoted to the revision "a solid year of close and undivided application." Every criticism of any importance has received full consideration. Mr. Bancroft is now engaged in the preparation of four supplementary volumes, which will cover the period from the close of the Revolutionary War to the present time, under a division into five epochs.

THE volume of "Foot-notes; or, Walking as a Fine Art," by Alfred Barron, to be published by A. Williams & Co., was written some ten years ago in the old Connecticut town of Wallingford, and excited a lively interest at the time it was going through the press as a serial. The papers give the walks and talks of an enthusiastic pedestrian who made his excursions from Wallingford, and have a delightful flavor, that will be particularly appreciated by lovers of Thoreau.

THOSE who love "Little Classics" piecemeal will love them all the more when they see how pretty a set these little books make. With their prose, poetry, and cunning biographical dictionary, they are a miniature library of English literature, that everybody is likely to break the tenth commandment over.

THE *American Naturalist* has passed into the hands of Messrs. Hurd & Houghton, who will hereafter publish it. The Peabody Institute, Salem, Mass., formerly had charge of it.

THE plates of the following works have been purchased of R. W. Carroll & Co., by Messrs. Chase & Hall, who announce new editions: Mulligan's "Living Pulpit of the Christian Church," "Scheme of Redemption," and "Reason and Revelation;" J. A. Williams' "Life of John Smith;" Isaac Errett's "Walks about Jerusalem," "Talks to Bereans," "Plan of Salvation," and "Our Position."

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BOOKS JUST PUBLISHED.

The Prices in this List are for cloth lettered, unless otherwise indicated. Imported books are marked with an asterisk; Authors' and Subscription Books, or Books published at net prices, with two asterisks.

- Almanac.**—The Illustrated Catholic Family Almanac for the United States, for the Year of our Lord 1876. Calculated for Different Parallels of Latitude, and adapted for Use throughout the Country. 16°, pp. 118. Pap., 25 c. *Cath. Pub. Soc.*
- The National Centennial Temperance Almanac and Teetotaler's Year Book, for the Year of our Lord 1876. By J. N. Stearns. 16°, pp. 64. Pap., 10 c. *Nat. Temp. Soc.*
- Webster's Calendar, or the Albany Almanac, for the Year of our Lord 1876. 12°. Pap., 10 c. *Munsell.*
- *Arnold.**—God and the Bible. A Review of Objections to "Literature and Dogma." By Matthew Arnold, author of "Culture and Anarchy," etc. 12°, pp. 444. \$2.50. *Macmillan.*
- Baker.**—Ballads of Beauty. Edited by George M. Baker. Illustr. 4°. \$3.50. *Lee & S.*
- Barrows.**—The Little Pilgrim Question Book, on the International Lessons for 1876. For the Little Folks. By Mrs. William Barrows. 18°, pp. 179. 15 c. *Cong. Pub. Soc.*
- **Bentley and Trimen.**—Medicinal Plants. Descriptions of the principal Plants employed in Medicine, their Properties and Uses. By Robert Bentley, F.L.S., etc., and Henry Trimen, F.L.S., etc. Part 1. Sm. 4°. Pap., \$2. *Lindsay & B.*
- Biddle.**—Materia Medica for the Use of Students. By John B. Biddle, M.D. Seventh ed., rev. and ext., with new illustr. 8°, pp. 454. \$4. *Lindsay & B.*
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- Christmas in Song and Story.** By Milton, Longfellow, Tennyson, Thackeray, Dickens, Irving, etc. Illustr. by Doré, Nast, Leech, Birket Foster, and others. Imp. 4°. \$7. *Cockcroft & Co.*
- Clark.**—Notes, Explanatory and Practical, upon the International Sunday-School Lessons for the Year 1876. By Rev. Rufus W. Clark, D.D. 16°, pp. 177. \$1. *Dodd & M.*
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- Dix.**—The American State and American Statesmen. By William Giles Dix. 12°. \$1.50. *Estes & L.*
- Dyer.**—Hoofs and Claws; or, Mrs. Burton's Policy. By Rev. Sidney Dyer, A.M. 16°, pp. 363. \$1.50. *Am. Bap. Pub. Soc.*
- **Fox.**—Atlas of Skin Diseases. A Series of colored Illustrations, with Text and Notes upon Treatment. By Tilbury Fox, M.D., etc. Part 1. 4°. Pap., \$2. *Lindsay & B.*
- From Heaven to New-York; or, the Good Hearts and the Brown-Stone Fronts.** By the Author of "Erring yet Noble." 12°. Pap., 50 c. *Mur. Hill Pub. Co.*
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- Gildersleeve.**—A Latin Primer, introductory to Gildersleeve's Latin Series. By B. L. Gildersleeve, Ph.D., LL.D. 12°, pp. 192. 90 c. *Univ. Pub. Co.*
- Latin Reader. By B. L. Gildersleeve, Ph.D., LL.D., 12°, pp. 190. \$1. *Univ. Pub. Co.*
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The Underselling Shops.

DURING the rush of custom at holiday times, there are usually opened in the principal cities establishments under such fine names as the "Importers' and Manufacturers' Depots," which throw out flaming placards, advertising the peculiar facilities which their capitalists have for buying goods cheaper than anybody else, and which show a considerable stock of toys, games, fancy goods, and books. They undersell regular dealers in all these lines. Their proprietors are usually unknown speculators, who buy auction goods or dead stock, and take their chances of getting rid of it by New Year's. Sometimes such stores confine their attention to books alone. Two other cases are just now "worrying" the retail dealers in New-York: one, a sale chiefly of old trade-sale stock, with lines of poets and standards not sold very much in the regular trade—virtually a "dead stock" case; the other the *bona-fide* clearing-out sale of Messrs. Sheldon & Co., in closing their retail business, a sale which is similar to the results of a failure in business. Then there are the regular undersellers, some of whom have not yet been headed off, although things are working to that end, and, lastly, the dollar stores.

Now, all this is of course discouraging, and some persons are ready to cry out that the reform is a failure. We should not say that the movement had been a failure, even if it were never mentioned again from now till Doomsday, for it has already opened the eyes of wholesalers and retailers alike throughout the country to the true methods of doing business, and the necessity of standing by regular prices and the regular trade. The country is already much better off for the reform.

But this class of complainers are expecting too much. The work of the trade organizations, to be sure and safe, must necessarily be slow. They have done much so far, but there is much left for them to do, which will be done if individual dealers simply, each man for himself, stand by their colors in the mean time. For every profitless sale they have lost, by the restrictions they have voluntarily put themselves under, they have twice and thrice made up by

the improvement, directly and indirectly, in their trade.

We wish to say to any of the impatient, first, that the kind of underselling noted above does not, after all, hurt them so much as they at first think; secondly, that a portion of it can never be stopped at all, but must be suffered by the book trade, in common with other classes of trades. Until the millennium comes with a device to prevent people being unsuccessful in business, better than our present admirable "platform," people will continue to fail, or to become honestly embarrassed, and their goods be thrown on the market. Such unfortunate occurrences as these every trade must stand, and we have only to point out, in this as in many cases, the danger of trying to make any rule do too much, and of breaking it by the tension. The logic of events is a factor in every movement.

But, to return, these stores do not do a great deal of harm. It was the cut-throat competition in the regular trade that hurt. These shops are stocked chiefly with cheap English goods, lines of poets and Robinson Crusoes that the trade has tired of, and dead stuff that the publisher is rightly glad to get rid of at any price. So far as we can judge, these English goods, and the lines of poets at enormous discounts, will gradually come to be known as undersold goods, and so handled, and if the publisher has any desire to cultivate the regular trade, his indirect encouragement of underselling will have its logical outcome in the avoidance by the regular trade of this dollar-store stock. The publishers are generally falling in with the idea that they can not sell the same line of goods for underselling and to the regular trade, and this is the great point gained. The dollar stores and "depots" may lie about retail prices, and sell their "bargains" to the crowd that throng them, but the regular dealer still offers the advantage of an assortment of books which they can not sell, fine bindings, a choice of editions, intelligent assistance to the book-buyer, and a reputation for honesty; and if he can't hold his own under those conditions, why, nothing can save him from going to the wall, and he might as well go at once. If, instead of grumbling about trade going to other shops,

when in fact there is in a dull year no trade to go, each would stand stoutly by his own work, there would be less complaint and less need for it,

A REPLY from President Randolph in the *Observer* of this week, copied elsewhere, makes some strong points against the letter we reprinted in our last issue.

A WESTERN dealer, who recently brought an underselling case before the member of the Arbitration Committee at Chicago, incloses to us a reply from the latter in which he conveys the impression that the retail price agreement allows 20 per cent to everybody, and adds "if there is any rule that any two persons can understand alike, I do not know it." The member does not seem to have read the rule on which his committee's work is based, or else he has overlooked the fact that the rule was modified at Niagara to eliminate this very misunderstanding from it as adopted at Put-in Bay.

A CORRESPONDENT inquires whether the 20 per cent rule does not cover the case of magazine clubbing, so as to prevent a house standing by the agreement, from offering its own periodicals in combination at reduced prices. It seems to us this would be stretching the rule a good ways; certainly it would be impracticable to attempt it. The business basis of the reform in books is simply the fact that the publishers can't profitably both sell through the retail trade and cultivate trade outside of it, wherefore they prefer to support the retail trade. If publishers of periodicals prefer to reach the public directly, as many of them do, there is nothing to say, unless the trade can make it profitable to them to come over to the other system.

' The Book Trade Combination.'

(From the New-York *Observer*.)

It is not to be expected that the *Observer* can spare space for a protracted discussion of the Book Trade Reform, but some of its editors are authors as well as editors, and the question is one of interest to all intelligent readers. I therefore crave indulgence to reply to a communication in your issue of the 25th ult., and which you state to be from a publisher and an author. It has had my respectful and careful attention, although it is evident that the writer's connection is with the press, and not with the trade, for as a book publisher he would be entitled always to buy at the trade discount.

The writer's fundamental error is his comparison of the book trade with other manufacturing and traffics. This the very nature of the

business forbids. To the masses of the people miscellaneous books are luxuries and of limited consumption. All persons must have food and clothing. A town of 3000 inhabitants may be satisfied with a few school-books, kept in a dingy store, and yet profitably support three or four establishments for the sale of food and general merchandise. At these places the main staples of consumption, in ordinary quantities, vary but little from the prices of the great centres, while the average profits of all the reputable dealers are about the same. Should any of them desire to close out the unsalable or surplus stock, this can readily be done, without any very serious loss upon the original cost, for the consumers are always needy and abundant. Now, the depreciation in book stock is vastly greater than that of any other "merchandise," and a forced sale, if it can be made, owing to the limited number of consumers, must always result in great loss. There is nothing so dead as a dead book, unless it be an old newspaper or magazine, and the mere offering of it at a very low price will not at once secure a customer. Any one could readily buy to-day of dealers and publishers in this city, tens of thousands of volumes at a discount of 75 per cent from the published prices.

It may be a mistaken policy, but a retail price for the book and the newspaper has always been fixed by the publisher, and probably always will be, for the simple reason that the business can not be managed in any other way. You fix a selling price for your paper to the subscriber, and have at one time offered a percentage for new subscribers. I fix a selling price for my book to the private buyer, and another for the trade. The great majority of the publishers sell the books of other publishers as well as their own, and the profit needed by the publisher, as well as the dealer, to secure a fair remuneration, is an ascertainable quantity, based on experience, as stated in my first letter, and I venture the assertion that every publishing or bookselling house that has assumed to prosecute its business on any other rate of profit has, sooner or later, met with misfortunes or dire disaster. The history of the trade in this country will furnish more than enough of such examples. Several persons within my recollection have assumed to furnish as good a religious journal as yours for one third less money, and have failed hopelessly; and scores upon scores of dealers in books have perished in the attempt to live on such a percentage of profit as your correspondent names.

His statement that two or three weeks will settle the salable quality of a book, does not accord with my experience. The sale of a book is largely dependent on circumstances over which the dealer has no control, and yet he must buy the book, notwithstanding the fact that the public taste, interest, or opinion is very fickle and precarious. Authors will persist in writing books, and publishers in printing them, and what will please one buyer does not interest another; and the bookseller's counter is after all the only place where the author can be fully presented to the reader. So, too, the sale of one book leads to the sale of another copy of the same, and it is often months before the real sale of a new book begins. The variety of tastes creates the great variety in books, and the dealer who fully understands his business

knows that if he does not keep up his stock, even in the absence of an immediate call for certain publications, he will soon be without customers for either new or old. And here is the point of cost as well as loss in the conduct of the business. Your correspondent would expect to find on my shelves a copy of the Englishman's Hebrew Concordance, and he would; and yet not a copy has been sold in six months, but *may* be sold to-morrow, only to be replaced, perhaps to be held again for six months, and in either case disposed of at a very moderate profit. And so every well-appointed bookstore is obliged to carry thousands of dollars in a stock, not of *dead* books, but of *slow* books, and thus anticipate the higher wants of the public; while in every such store there may unfortunately also be found a supply of depreciated stock which the dealer would be glad to sell at any price the buyer might be pleased to offer.

I cordially agree with your correspondent that there are "ruts in the trade," and that "quality and salableness are too much lost sight of." But who shall decide for us? Certainly I never published or bought a book which I thought would not sell. Yet, alas! how many have I both published and bought that did not. The author failed to please, the buyers did not buy! I am safe in saying that not one miscellaneous book in four published ever pays an *actual* profit to the publisher, for the reason that the sale does not reach a remunerative number. Reduction in price at the outset would be of little use. If the book at a fair price will not strike of itself, it is seldom that the publisher can make it. The first thousand copies published rarely, if ever, cover the cost of the stereotype plates. This is distributed over supposed editions of from 2000 to 5000 copies, and when a sale is limited to only 1000 copies, while the dealers may dispose of those they have purchased at a profit, the publisher has incurred a positive loss.

Your correspondent truly says that "the middle man" (in this case the *dealer*) "is the best judge of what profit he can live on," and it is this very class all over the country which has declared that the maintenance of the retail price, after excepting the classes of privileged buyers, is indispensable to his success. As I have before said, this reform movement did not originate with the *publishers*, but with the *dealers*, who are the experts and sufferers in the case.

Will you permit me to add that no class in the community has a deeper or more vital interest in this reform movement than the authors. Their prosperity can not be attempted or assured without the active co-operation of the book-seller. When your correspondent has written and published a book, it is of the highest importance to him that it be placed on the booksellers' shelves in all parts of the land. It can not be kept there if it does not pay the seller a living profit, and every underseller of other than dead or dying stock, by breaking retail prices, lessens the consumption of good books, by lessening the ability of the legitimate dealer to keep up his assortment.

It may be well to add, to prevent misapprehension, that under the rules of the Association a maximum discount of 20 per cent from the retail price is still allowed to public libraries, including circulating and Sunday-school

libraries, clergymen and professional teachers, professional books to professional buyers, and large buyers outside the trade.

Yours very truly,
A. D. F. RANDOLPH.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The interests of the trade can not be better served, than by a full discussion by its members of all questions which affect it. Our columns are always open to communications on any such subject, provided they be brief and suggestive, and we cordially invite the trade to express any suggestions or opinions of interest or value in "Letters to the Editor."

From a Clergyman and Librarian

A LIBRARIAN in New-Jersey, who is also a clergyman, speaks of the WEEKLY as "the most valuable and useful publication of the kind for our purposes of any we receive;" he urges the publication in a volume of the *Evening Post's* "very interesting articles on the 'Bookmakers.'" He expresses full and hearty sympathy with the reform movement, and advocates cutting off *all* discounts to professional men as such; *all* except to the regular trade and to libraries, who do not buy for their personal profit, but for the public. "I am a clergyman, and I know no reason why I should not pay the same as my parishioner. We may be standing at the same counter and buying the same book, and it is very embarrassing for me to ask a discount that is not granted to him. It makes me ashamed to do it. It makes my neighbor feel that he is unfairly dealt by, and the bookseller ashamed of doing what seems, and *is*, an unfair thing to his other customer. I have often paid the full price for a book rather than condescend to this species of official begging. Reduce the retail price somewhat and make it up by *treating all alike*. Many, if not most honorable professional men, will approve and sustain the Association in wiping out these unworthy distinctions, which are so embarrassing to *all* parties.

"I am also a librarian, and would most cheerfully sustain the 20 per cent rule, and be perfectly satisfied, if you *treat all alike*. That is the *only safe and honorable ground*." M. B."

[We may state that the question of the publication of the *Post* articles in a volume was considered by that journal, but that it was decided to leave the matter with the author, Mr. J. W. Bartlett, now of 949 K Street, Washington. We should be glad if he could receive sufficient encouragement to print, but, as a rule, the call for such articles in volume form is not sufficient to justify their collection.—ED.]

THE life of John Locke, by Mr. H. R. Fox-Bourne, which is now completed, will be published early next year. The editor has discovered the original manuscripts of several short treatises written by the philosopher but never published, among them, "An Essay Concerning Toleration," penned fourteen years before the first of Locke's famous "Letters on Toleration," and many interesting medical notes.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

GUIDO AND LITA: A Tale of the Riviera, by the Marquis of Lorne. (Macmillan & Co.) Although this literary effort of a close connection of royalty has not met with universal commendation from the English press, it strikes us as an unusually charming and pleasing story in verse, probably from comparison with the many abortive poetical ventures it is our misfortune to be obliged to scan in the course of our work. It is a simple, interesting story, utterly devoid of eccentricity, either in its subject or rhyme; nevertheless full of music in its versification, and bearing every evidence of the culture and refinement of its author. Square 12mo, cloth, \$1.50.

RODERICK HUDSON, by Henry James, Jr. (James R. Osgood & Co.) The readers of the *Atlantic* enjoyed this story through successive numbers of that magazine. It is a story to be taken just in that way—by instalments—having too little plot, and being almost too diffuse to create any particular excitement in the mind of the ordinary novel-reader. As a transcript of art-life in Rome, the book is exceedingly interesting to cultivated minds; it presents besides some keen analysis of character, and some vivid description of places and scenery. 12mo, cloth, \$2.

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AN ISLAND PEARL, by B. L. Farjeon. (Harper & Brothers.) The story of the love and domestic life of "Amos Beecroft, Mariner." A simple tale of the sea and a woman's supposed treachery; containing some very fine delineations of character, and a graphic picture of shipwreck and life on a desert island. 8vo, paper, 35 cents.

OFF THE ROLL, by Katherine King. (Harper & Brothers.) This is a story of mistaken identity, worked out in quite a new and novel way. The scene of the story is laid in Canada, the male actors in it all being officers in "Her Majesty's Regiment." 8vo, paper, 75 cents.

THE LOVES OF A LAWYER, by Andrew Shuman. (W. B. Keen, Cooke & Co.) The unfortunate hero of this moving tale is in love with two women at once. He puts his heart to the test in every possible manner to find out which one he loves best, but can throw no light on his feelings. A combination of circumstances brings about his marriage with one of the young ladies—but he is no sooner married than he discovers she is the wrong one. Fortunately, however, after a brief married life, she dies, and he is enabled to marry the other one and put an end to his perplexities. 16mo, cloth, red edges, \$1.

CHERRY, THE SINGER, by Mrs. S. B. C. Samuels. (Edward A. Samuels.) The author tells us this story is founded on fact, little Cherry being a real child, whose rare, sweet voice the public will have an opportunity of hearing in a few years. In the history of "Jamie," the companion of her wanderings, the sad story of Charley Ross is reproduced, with a happy ending, however—"Jamie" being finally restored to his parents. 12mo, cloth, \$1.

THE CHEVALIER CASSE-COU, by Fortuné Du Boisgobey. Part I. **THE RED CAMELIA**, translated from the French by Thomas Picton. (R. M. De Witt.) The above story is divided into two parts, the first of which, under the name of "The Red Camelia," is now presented. The hero, Chevalier Casse-Cou, is a modern Don Quixote, who accidentally discovers at the end of a performance at the Grand Opera, in Paris, a young and beautiful woman lying dead in a private box. To find out her murderer is the sole object of his life, his search leading him into the most out-of-the-way parts of Paris. The plot is very intricate, and the story highly sensational, but well written and full of interest. 12mo, paper, \$1.

TWICE-TOLD TALES, by Nathaniel Hawthorne. (James R. Osgood & Co.) The latest addition to the new popular edition of Hawthorne's works the Osgoods are publishing. A beautiful little edition, uniform with "Little Classics." 2 vols. \$1.25 each.

CHAPTERS ON SCHOOL SUPERVISION, by William H. Payne, M.A. (Wilson, Hinkle & Co.) This is a record of personal experience in teaching by the superintendent of the public schools of Adrian, Mich., and is offered as a contribution to the practical literature of teaching. It contains treatises on the superintendents' powers and general duties, on the art of grading schools, on examinations, on reports, records, blanks, etc. It will be found rich in suggestions and practical advice. 12mo, cloth, \$1.25.

NOTES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSONS FOR 1876, by Rev. Rufus W. Clark, D.D. (Dodd & Mead.) These notes embrace the lessons for every Sunday in the year, and are designed to aid both teachers and scholars in the study of the Bible. They are both explanatory and practical, and condensed, clear, and accurate. 12mo, cloth, \$1.

RELATIONS OF CIVIL LAW TO CHURCH POLITY, DISCIPLINE, AND PROPERTY, by Hon. William Strong, LL.D. (Dodd & Mead.) Two lectures delivered before the Union Theological Seminary, in New-York, during the winter of 1874-75. The title fully explains the matter treated of. 12mo, cloth, \$1.25.

SONGS OF THREE CENTURIES, edited by John Greenleaf Whittier. (James R. Osgood & Co.) Mr. Whittier has been exceedingly happy in his choice of poems for this very beautiful volume. It is a very welcome and desirable addition to the presentation books of the season, and will no doubt meet with full appreciation. It is more especially devoted to our own poets of to-day than any volume of a similar sort in the market; they receive the most ample representation, the very largest division of the work containing characteristic songs and sonnets of almost every American poet of any fame at all. The work is divided

into three parts, "From Shakespeare to Milton," "From Dryden to Burns," "From Wordsworth to Longfellow," each era being richly illustrated by specimen songs. Sq. 12mo, cloth, \$3.50.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. (John Murphy & Co.) A thin pamphlet of instructions for the Catholic priesthood in the administration of the Blessed Sacrament. 50 cents.

A LATIN PRIMER, by B. L. Gildersleeve. (University Publishing Co.) This primer is intended to be preparatory to the other volumes of Gildersleeve's Latin Series. It contains elementary forms of the introductory portions of his Grammar, Reader, and Exercise Book, so that in taking up these books the pupil will find the first parts of them only a review of what he has already learned. The method of this little work offers great facilities to the young pupil. 12mo, cloth, 90 cents.

The School-Book Question.

MR. JOHN R. NUNEMACHER, of New-Albany, Ind., has been distributing "a few impertinent remarks" on the question of introducing school-books and teachers' reductions, in which he makes several good points. He says:

The practices of school-book publishers, in introducing their books by other means than those afforded by the retail trade, have converted school-teachers into active rivals of the retail booksellers, and in many cases they have in this way wholly destroyed the retail prices of their school-books. Many school-teachers, within my range of observation, seem to take more interest in the *prices* of school-books than in their *contents*. They are always on the look-out for a new book to take the place of one that has been heretofore used in their schools. To many of them the school-book is not so much a good tool, that is put into their hands to be used in doing the educational work of their schools, as it is a matter of merchandise, on which they may make a pecuniary profit. We well know that it is not the interest of the retail booksellers to influence such unnecessary changes in text-books, because they have to meet the complaints of the victimized parents, without any compensatory gain in any shape, while the teachers escape scot free, and the publisher [innocent soul] deludes himself with the idea that he has achieved another conquest by the introduction of his book—little dreaming that the teacher will find it equally to his interest to dislodge *his* book in favor of the very first new book of the same character that happens to claim his attention. As an extreme case, I would mention that a certain teacher, within my knowledge, introduced and used in his school four text-books on the same subject during a single session, and the parent, who mentioned the fact to me further said that the new books which he had been required to buy for his children had cost him more than twice the amount paid for their tuition.

The principal of another literary institution, within my range of trade, has worked matters to such a high point of perfection that he will not use any book that can be bought in the bookstores of his town, if he can avoid doing

so without making his purpose apparent; thus compelling all his pupils to buy their school-books of *him*. There is no chance for competition with him in prices, for as soon as he learns that any of the booksellers have obtained supplies of the new book that he has adopted, it is in his power to make another change, by which the tradesman finds his books wholly useless to him.

* * * * *

The difference between the wholesale price and the retail price of a school-book should be the legitimate gain of the bookseller. If this difference is out of due proportion to the intrinsic value of the book, it should be reduced—but it should be reduced to all alike. . . . If our school-books are worth their retail prices, when we sell them we should obtain their retail prices in full. If they are *not* worth their retail prices, then the prices should be lessened to all *persons alike* who buy at retail.

Library Statistics

It should certainly be a subject of very deep regret that the only substitute we have for any attempt at a general annual collection of library statistics should be the little space the Commissioner of Education can give the subject in his annual report. For this little however, we are duly thankful, holding it as a promise of the time when means shall be found to collect and digest the larger mass of materials which could be made of so much use. The department certainly deserves credit for the care and accuracy shown in what little work they have been able to do in this direction.

From the report for 1874, now just published, it appears that the number of libraries reported in 1870 was 152; in 1871, 180; in 1872, 251; in 1873, 351. In this report for 1874, information is presented in regard to 340 libraries, embracing 1,091,590 volumes, 88,740 pamphlets, and 11,545 manuscripts, concerning which no detailed statistics have been previously given in the reports, and 336 libraries which furnished detailed statistics in 1872 or 1873. The number of volumes in these libraries is 4,663,166; the number of pamphlets, 764,944; the increase in books during the last fiscal year was 299,767, and in pamphlets, 88,423. In addition to these, there are some 300 college libraries, the aggregate number of volumes in which is 1,830,455; in 158 of these there are society libraries numbering 406,144 volumes, and in such schools of medicine as have reported, there are 66,611 volumes in the libraries for consultation.

The Commissioner alludes to a work now in preparation, and soon to be issued by the Bureau, showing the historical development of libraries in the United States, their classification, management, growth, and circulation, and presenting as full and accurate statistics of all public libraries as can be gathered. The Centennial Commission, recognizing the importance of library work as a part of the educational representation at the Centennial Exhibition, has designated it as a separate class.

A FAC-SIMILE of the first issue of Walton's "Compleat Angler" is to be published in England.

Library and Bibliographical Notes.

THE Boston Public Library is about to make a proposal to Congress which will secure to the Government, at the mere cost of printing, a topical index of the United States documents from the XVIIIth Congress to the present time. The index down to 1866 was printed by the City of Boston, and the supplement, bringing it down to date, has been prepared by the Library. The earlier portions are to be reprinted with fuller references, the whole making a volume of 200 pages. The memorial of the Board of Trustees asks that Congress will either make an appropriation to print the whole work, or to purchase enough copies to sustain them in this expenditure; otherwise the catalogue must remain in manuscript, and necessarily be accessible only to visitors of the library.

THE Italian Government assists by subsidies in the establishment of popular (as distinguished from public) libraries. By a recent order of the Minister of Public Instruction, hereafter no moneys will be given for the acquisition of books, but at discretion the books themselves will be furnished according to the locality and the prosperity of each institution.

PERSONAL MENTION.

THE *Christian Union*, in calling particular attention to the publications of Mr. Meyer, says of him, "He has endeavored to encourage a higher taste by publishing only the better class of music. His specialties are series entitled 'Golden Treasury of Piano Lyrics,' 'Golden Treasury of Vocal Lyrics,' 'Little Gems for the Piano,' and 'Lays of Sweden and Finland.' All of these series are selected with great discrimination and taste. Such of his publications as we have examined have impressed us that Mr. Meyer has a genuine missionary spirit, and is ready to sacrifice mere temporary success that he may promote a more elevated and refined taste. His highest reward may be deferred for a little while, but it must surely come."

LITERARY AND TRADE NEWS.

WE have to make one or two corrections and notices of omissions in the Christmas number, for most of which, however, the lateness of the publishers' advertisements is to be cited in defence. We took every pains to be both correct and complete, both in our editorial notices and our lists. This, however, does not excuse us for calling Mr. Joseph H. Coates in one place John and in another James, especially when he informs us that he is quite content with being Joseph. Messrs. Ford's information came too late to be used in these departments, but we are quite sure the trade did not overlook Mrs. Stowe's Christmas story, "Betty's Bright Idea." Dodd & Mead's volume on "The Sacred Tabernacle of the Hebrews," a book interesting to all clerical scholars and Sunday-school teachers, was also omitted. Mr. Gill, it will be noted, changed some of his titles and prices; the book first announced as "Many Treasures," and so noticed, is called "Golden Treasures of Poetry, Romance, and Art," and its price is \$3.

BOOKSELLERS should note one or two recent changes in prices. The price of Maine's "Early History of Institutions" and "Ancient Law" (Holt) has been raised from \$3 to \$3.50 per volume. The price of "Stories from the Lips of the Teacher Retold" (Putnam's) is \$1, and not \$1.50, as reported last week.

GEORGE P. PUTNAM'S SONS, says the *Tribune*, have lately had several letters in pleasant recognition of American publishing from English authors, whose books they had reprinted under voluntary royalty. Dr. Fothergill speaks of the American edition of his "Maintenance of Health" as "one of the prettiest books I have ever seen, leaving nothing to be desired;" and he concludes, "I am afraid, in the present vexed condition of no international copyright, American publishers and English authors can scarcely be expected to be profuse in their expressions of amity; and I intend to publish in America, to start with, for the future." Mr. Andrew Wilson, author of "The Abode of Snow," writing in the same vein, adds: "I hardly regret that your proposal for an American preface did not reach me in time, when I see how delicately, how considerately, and at how much risk to the sale of your edition, the circumstances of the republication have been explained in the note which you have prefixed to that beautiful edition."

MR. T. WHITTAKER has in press the report of the Bonn Conference, held on August 10th and following days between the Old Catholics, the Evangelical Church of Germany, clergy and members of the Church of England, representatives of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, bishops, clergy, and professors in the Oriental Churches, and representatives of other Christian bodies. It is translated by the Rev. Professor Buel, of the General Theological Seminary, with a preface by the Rev. R. J. Nevin, D.D., rector of St. Paul's Church, Rome, Italy.

CLAXTON, REMSEN & HAFFELFINGER have about ready an enlarged edition of their "Plain Directions for Accidents, Emergencies, and Poisons," the need and usefulness of which in the care of the sick has been attested in the wide sale of the former edition. It is prepared by a Philadelphia physician, and is suitable for both hospital and family use. A new novel by Charlotte Walsingham, "O'er Moor and Sea," is also promised for speedy publication.

MESSRS. J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co. have published a forty-page illustrated Holiday Catalogue of their own books, which will be useful in the trade.

"THE Manuscript Manual," of the Authors' Publishing Company, furnishes many excellent hints to young writers (and some old ones), and should be sought by those who desire information on writing.

THE American News Company announce that with the new year *The American Booksellers' Guide* will be issued semi-monthly as *The American Bookseller*, at the price of \$1 per annum.

THE Woman's Centennial Committee of Cambridge, Mass., is soon to publish a book, intended to put the reader as nearly as possible in the place of a resident of Cambridge in 1776. To accomplish this, the history of the town and its college will be given in outline

from the beginning of both to the year mentioned. The houses then existing, which still remain, will be described and illustrated. A diary will give a correct idea of the lively events in town from the Battle of Lexington to the Declaration of Independence.

WE have the card of a dealer in a good-sized place in Virginia, which gives his business as "dealer in wall-papers, window-shades, blinds, curtains, cornices, pictures, picture-frames, books, blank-books, stationery, music, fancy-goods, etc.," the books, etc., being in modest type at the bottom, while the wall-papers stare one out of countenance. Since the reform started, he has printed "Bookseller and Stationer" on the back, in the biggest kind of red letters, and he expresses himself as only too glad to return to that as his main business.

A TRANSLATION of the entire works of Proudhon is contemplated by Benj. R. Tucker of Princeton, Mass. The first volume is promised for immediate publication: "What is Property; or, an Inquiry into the Principle of Right and of Government."

A "STUDENT'S Manual of English Literature," for use in Roman Catholic colleges, has been prepared by the Rev. O. L. Jenkins, A.M., who has been president of several such institutions, for publication by John Murphy & Co., Baltimore. The author's aim is to provide a text-book that shall show that the revival of letters is to be attributed not to the Reformation, but to the Church itself, and otherwise give her credit for the progress of culture.

MR. JAMES APPLETON MORGAN replies in the *Arcadian*, of December 4th, to the severe review of his "Law of Literature" printed in the *Tribune* over the initials of Mr. E. S. Drone.

WE have received the following new music from Mr. Matthias Gray, San Francisco: "La Jolie Parfumeuse Waltz;" "La Fille de Madame Angot Waltz;" "Madame Angot's Child," duo; "Happy Days" (from "La Fille de Madame Angot"); "Brindisi" (from "Giroflé-Girofla"); "Stolen Kisses" (from "Giroflé-Girofla"); "Rondo" (from "La Fille de Madame Angot"); "Pirate's Chorus" (from "Giroflé-Girofla"); "Son of Marasquin" (from "Giroflé-Girofla"); "Legende" (from "La Fille de Madame Angot"); "Hunters' Chorus" (from "Princess of Trebizonde"); "A Flower that Blooms" (from "Princess of Trebizonde")—all arranged by Ad. Dorn (each, 20 cents); and "Killarney," arranged by Carl Hess (10 cents). And from S. T. Gordon & Son, New-York, the following: "The Mariner's Twilight Musings," by W. B. Richardson (40 cents); "Let the Gold and Silver Mingle," by P. W. Turnbull (30 cents); "Over the Beautiful Stars," by G. W. Persley (80 cents); "Zero" waltzes, by William Spenser (50 cents); "Joy and Tears," mazourka, by B. G. Fontana (35 cents); "Te Deum Laudamus," by J. V. Allstrom (50 cents); "Darling Gracie Bell," by G. W. Persley (30 cents); "Evening Shadows," by J. C. Meininger (40 cents); "Bright-Eyed Nora," by G. W. Persley (30 cents); "Kiss" duet (from "Madame l'Archiduc"), arranged by H. Maylath (30 cents); and "Do You Love Me Still the Same?" by Gomer Thomas (35 cents).

THE first part of a "Royal Masonic Cyclopædia," some time announced, has now appeared in London, under the editorship of Mr. R. R.

H. Mackenzie, Mr. John Hogg being publisher. It is to be issued in numbers, at 2s. 6d. each, and is designed to give briefly a history and explanation of the rites and symbolism of Freemasonry and kindred orders, with some biography, and other notes. This first part covers from A, through the greater part of C, and in most particulars would seem remarkably full and complete. The care and accuracy shown in preparing the biographical notices is to be especially noted.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *London Bookseller* suggests, as an incentive to cash payments, "the more general adoption by the wholesale trade of appending a little slip to each account they wish prompt payment for, similar to this:

"— discount off this account, if paid on or before the — instant."

"It saves trouble, is a good reminder for payment, and encourages the small ready-money buyer."

ANOTHER work from the pen of Jules Verne is imminent. It is "The Courier of the Czar."

THE *London Athenæum* announces that "Mr. Andrew W. Tuer has in the press a book called 'Modern English Pottery and Porcelain: Hints for Collectors.' As 'old china' is now pretty well unpurchasable by men of moderate means, the author proposes that people who can not afford 'square marked Worcester' should collect first-class modern china, and he, to help them, gives an account of the present productions of English factories. Foreign pottery and porcelain are not touched upon." Mr. Tuer is known to many of our readers in connection with *The Paper and Printing Trades Journal*, of which he is editor. We understand that Mr. Tuer's splendid collection of modern china, embracing the finest specimens of the English factories, and engravings of all of which will figure in his work, will probably ultimately find its home in South Kensington Museum. The book may be expected at the early part of the year, and the publishing price will be one guinea.

THE royalty on the sale of Messrs. Moody and Sankey's hymn-books, in England, between January and June of the present year, amounted to the large sum of £5667 17s. 6d., which amount has been forwarded to the treasurer of the building fund of Mr. Moody's church in Chicago.

THE books to be given away by the Prince of Wales in India are all bound in scarlet morocco and gold, and stamped on one side with the monogram of the badges of the Garter and Star of India, which have been used on all the Prince's presents. They form a sumptuous collection of illustrated works.

MISS BRADDON's thirtieth novel will be called "Joshua Haggart's Daughter."

MR. WILKIE COLLINS has written a new serial story called "The Two Destinies."

IT is said that ex-President Thiers' "Memoirs" will fill 16 volumes when completed.

LORD HOUGHTON is making a collection of the writings of untutored poets, says the *Academy*, and his collection has been materially increased during his visit to America, where he has discovered a number of "mute inglorious Miltons."

AN elaborate History of the German People by various hands is announced in the *Athenaeum*. The first part, which reaches to the death of Charlemagne, has been undertaken by Prof. Felix Pahn; the second part will extend to Rodolph of Hapsburg; the third, which is intrusted to Prof. Wegele, to the Reformation; the fourth will treat of the Reformation and the Thirty Years' War; the fifth will carry the work as far as the death of Frederick the Great; the sixth to the present time.

A NEW edition of Chatto and Jackson's well-known "History of Wood-Engraving" is in course of preparation by Messrs. Chatto & Windus. Mr. Chatto, the publisher, is the son of Mr. Chatto, the author.

PLANTIN's house at Antwerp, which has been bought for conversion into a museum of bibliography and typography, has been described in an able pamphlet by Ferdinand Vanderhaegen, the curator of the library at Ghent.

THE second and concluding volume of Dr. Schmidt's "Shakespeare Lexicon: a Complete Dictionary of all the English Words, Phrases, and Constructions in the Works of the Poet," is nearly ready for publication.

MR. EDWARD JENKINS, M.P., is writing a temperance story, in the style of "Ginx's Baby." The title of the story will probably be "The Devil's Chain."

"AN Englishman of distinction," quoted by Mr. Smalley in the *Tribune*, noted among the most striking things in America:

"3d. The total absence of book advertisements in many American papers of large circulation.

"4th. The very inferior literary character of many newspapers of good standing and repute."

THERE is just published in London the English translation of Dr. Henry Rink's volume of "The Tales and Traditions of the Eskimo; with a sketch of their Habits, Religion, Language, and other Peculiarities." The peculiarity of the volume is in its illustrations, which were drawn and engraved by Eskimo.

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Will publish, December 16th, THREE NEW VOLS. from JOHN RUSKIN, namely:

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ANDOVER PUBLICATIONS.

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Psalms. With a New Translation. By Prof. JAS. G. MURPHY, LL.D. 8vo, pp. 694, \$4.

Dr. Murphy's Commentaries on Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus, have been received with great favor. Several editions of each have been called for.

The Methodist Quarterly says: Thus far nothing has appeared in this country for half a century on the first two books of the Pentateuch so valuable as the present two volumes.

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